

Appl. No. 10/051,094
Amendment dated: June 23, 2004
Reply to OA of: April 2, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-14 and the indication that claims 15-19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Official Action. Accordingly, Applicants have made the necessary amendments to allowable subject matter and to place this application in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended the title of the specification as suggested by the Examiner in the Official Action. The Examiner's helpful suggestion is appreciated.

Applicants have amended the claims in order to more particularly define the invention taking into consideration the outstanding Official Action. Claim 15 has been amended to more particularly define the invention and distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 20-25 have been canceled from the application without prejudice or disclaimer. The claims now remaining in the application are claims 1-19. Applicants most respectfully submit that all the claims now present in the application are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are clearly patentable over the references of record.

The rejection of claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended claim 15 to provide sufficient antecedent basis thereby obviating the rejection. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn. This amendment obviates the objection to claims 16-19. Claims 15-19 are now allowable and early notification thereof is most respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al. has been carefully considered. It is not believed that this claim is anticipated. However, in an effort to place the application in early condition for

Appl. No. 10/051,094
Amendment dated: June 23, 2004
Reply to OA of: April 2, 2004


allowance, this claim has been canceled from the application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants believe that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants now respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-5, and 7-19 be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussion, he is kindly invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the specification and claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: 
Richard E. Fichter
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, 4th Fl.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

REF:kdd
A03.wpd

June 29, 2004